

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 15557 261139Z

15

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O R 261000Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7852

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

S E C R E T BEIRUT 15557

EXDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: ASEC, PFOR, PINS, LE, SY

SUBJ: GALLAGHER/DYKES KIDNAPPING

REF: BEIRUT 15402

1. NOTHING RPT NOTHING SIGNIFICANT HAS OCCURRED IN GALLAGHER/DYKES CASE SINCE REFTEL. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, BEEN MAINTAINING AS MUCH PRESSURE AS WE CAN ON JUMBLATT IN THAT BOTH DEFATT AND ECON COUNSELOR, LATTER VIA ABBAS KHALAF, HAD BEEN CONTINUING TO EXPRESS OUR ARDENT HOPES THAT GALLAGHER/DYKES WOULD BE RELEASED BY CHRISTMAS. SUCH OBVIOUSLY HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN THE CASE AND INFORMANT B STATED LAST EVENING DEC 25 THAT HE HAD SEEN JUMBLATT THAT VERY AFTERNOON. JUMBLATT STATED HE WAS ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF TWO MEN BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR BUT HE DID NOT RPT NOT KNOW IF THIS WOULD BE REALISTIC. AT ANY RATE, JUMBLATT HAS NOW FOCUSSED ON MATTER AND, ACCORDING TO INFORMANT B IS PURSUING IT ACTIVELY.

2. I AM GETTING SOMEWHAT ANNOYED AT THE APPARENT LETHARGY BEING SHOWN BY LEBANESE IN THIS MATTER. WE HAVE ALL BEEN WORKING HARD TO KEEP IT RELATIVELY

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QUIET AND NOT APPLY HEAT THROUGH PUBLIC MEDIA.

TO SOME LEBANESE, OF COURSE, THIS IS JUST WHAT
THEY WANT. I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD DO ANYTHING
RIGHT NOW BUT WE WILL BE THINKING HERE AND I HOPE
THAT THOSE CONCERNED IN WASHINGTON WILL BE DOING
THE SAME ABOUT WHERE WE GO IF THE MEN ARE NOT
RELEASED BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

3. WHILE ALL OF US HAVE NOT HAD A CHANCE TO GIVE THIS MATTER
THE THOUGHT IT DESERVES, I PERSONALLY AM THINKING ALONG THE LINES
OF CUTTING THIS MISSION DOWN TO BAREST MINIMUM--THREE
OR FOUR PEOPLE IF LET'S SAY THE MEN ARE NOT RELEASED BY
JAN 15. THIS ACTION AND REASON FOR IT WOULD BE PUBLICIZED.
THE FIRST CUT WOULD BE THE VISA SECTION.
THIS WOULD, OF COURSE, HURT SOME LITTLE PEOPLE BUT
IT WOULD ALSO GET A LOT OF THE FAT CATS, AS I
SAID THIS IS VERY PRELIMINARY THINKING BIT I THINK
IT BEHOOVES US ALL TO FIVE SERIOUS THOUGHT. AS TO WHAT
WE DO IF THE MEN ARE STILL DETAINED IN 1976.
GODLEY

SECRET

NNN

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